justment in two steps in early July, 1991. Consequently, the exchange rate between the Rupee and dollar moved from $ 1.00= Rs. 21.09 on Friday, 28th June, 1991 to $ 1.00 = Rs. 23.11 on Monday, 2nd July, 1991 and to $ 1.00 = Rs. 25.95 on 3rd July, 1991.

The system of official and market rates of exchange of the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar commenced with the introduction of the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System on 29th February, 1992. On 28th February, 1992 the rate of exchange between rupee and US dollar was $ 1= Rs. 25.8264. The average rates of exchange in the months of March, 1992 and October, 1992 are given below :

	March, 92	October, 92
Official rate of exchange	25.8906	25.8900
Market rate of exchange	29.4551	30.0471

In respect of the rupee and the Russian rouble there are no separate official and market rates of exchange. The rupee-rouble exchange rate used to be governed by the Indo-USSR Protocol of November, 1978. With the dissolution of the USSR and the shift of the Rouble towards a market based currency, the arrangements for determining the rupee-rouble rate are currently under discussion with the Government of the Russian Federation. The Government of India have held several rounds of negotiations with the former USSR and present Russian Government for a revision of the rupee-rouble exchange rate. The talks have so far been inconclusive.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India fixes the official rate of exchange taking into account various factors, including the strength of the rupee vis-a-vis other currencies. The market rates of traded currencies are determined by the foreign exchange dealers association of India keeping in view the demand and supply of such currencies in the foreign currency market. The gap between official and market rates of exchange between the rupee and the US dollar is thus a product of a number of circumstances. At present the gap between the market rate and the official rate is less than 20 per cent. The Government has taken a number of steps to encourage exports and the Government expects that as a result of the steps taken to improve export performance the inflow of foreign exchange in the market will be sufficient to ensure that the gap between the official and the market rate remains modest. In the longer run it is expected that the exchange rate will be unified.

The question does not arise with respect to the rupee-rouble exchange rate.

Indian Banks Operating Abroad

1246. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of branches and the names of Indian Commercial Banks including Nationalised Banks operating in foreign countries;

(b) what are the details of the branches, country-wise; and

(c) what is their performance in terms of profit or losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) At present 9 Indian banks are having 115 overseas branches. Bank-wise and country-wise break up of these overseas branches is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXV, Annexure No. 17]

(c) The overseas operations of Indian banks, although generating gross profits have not been very satisfactory.